



VIKTOR HOVLAND (-15)

Q. Sundays aren't that easy out here, Viktor Hovland, fresh in your PGA TOUR career, but it seems like Sunday's your day?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I guess so. Well, I've had two good Sundays now. I had a really bad one my first week at the Travelers, but I seemed a bit able to learn from that, and to have two bogey-free rounds on the last two Sundays have been nice.

Q. Matt lead some of the headlines yesterday. It was your turn today?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I guess. I mean, I didn't really think much about that. I just tried to play my game and I was fortunate enough to make a few birdies on the front nine, which kind of set me up for a back nine that I really played well at. So I just kind of felt comfortable and tried to make some putts.

Q. You were a few back. Did you have a number in mind?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I was trying to get into that top-10. I was thinking maybe I needed a birdie on 18 to kind of not seal the deal but at least really feel comfortable about it. But all in all, you can't really complain too much about a bogey-free 65, so I'm happy.

Q. Absolutely. Top-10 at the moment, top-10 last week. To Matt, starts the day with a share of the lead. Were there a couple text messages overnight?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: No, but I saw him after the round and told him good luck. I didn't want to disturb anything that he's got going on. Obviously he knows that it's a four-day tournament. If he just does his thing, I think he's going to be looking pretty good today.

Q. I saw you at Travelers, you didn't play so well on Sunday, you played good last Sunday and again today. What did you learn at the Travelers about this final round?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I remember at Hartford I was around maybe 30th place, 35th or something going into Sunday and I had a bad start. I just figured -- I didn't give up, but I figured, man, I really had to make five, six birdies coming in to just make a decent kind of -- or get some decent points from that week. I just fired at too many pins and just couldn't get any momentum.

What I realized after just looking at the leaderboard, okay, I was three over par early, if I just play smart, play solid and shoot three under coming in, shoot even for the day, that's still a round for 30th place and that's going to help me out way more than it did for 54th.

So I just kind of take that -- tried to take that mindset going into the last couple Sundays just knowing that, okay, if I just play my game, stay patient, because I haven't been the hottest of the putters consistently. I had a good putting day today and I putted good last Sunday, but just to stay patient and let the birdies come to me.

Q. You know, you need 266 FedExCup points to get temporary membership on the PGA TOUR. You came in this week with 65, likely you'll get around 60 today. You're right on target, don't you think, with about four more sponsors' invites?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Well, I got -- I'm playing next week and I only have Wyndham left, so I have two tournaments. That's why it would have been nice to top-10 this week and maybe get that sponsor's exemption back. But I'm just trying not to think too much about it. I think now at least I'm in the Korn Ferry Finals, so that kind of relieves me of some pressure knowing that I have somewhere to play. You know, I'm just going to have to keep playing good golf and hopefully it will be enough for points.

Q. Something tells me next week it will be a good course for you. Lastly, your buddy Matthew Wolff is out there in contention. Are you going out to watch him?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: I don't know what I'm doing right now. Just get some quick food in. And I don't know, there's going to be some people out there, so maybe just sit and watch on TV.

Q. What was the mindset today and how did the execution of it go?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, I mean, I tried to just kind of keep the same mindset as I had last week going into the last Sunday. I knew that I was -- the leaderboard was so stacked that if you shoot a good Sunday, you can really make some moves and I was aware of that.

I was a little frustrated early on that I didn't quite make the short birdie putts that I had in the first four, five holes. But I did kind of a little tweaking with my putting routine yesterday after the round, and after I made a putt on seven to go to two under for the day, it just kind of cleared me up a little bit, I was a little bit more comfortable.

Q. Viktor, how are you feeling with this long stretch you've been on here, and it continues next week. How are you holding up?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah, it's been a lot of golf. I think the first couple weeks I was kind of grinding, I was out there like a lot, practicing a lot, which I think there should be a good balance of this, because at the same time you want to continue to get better, but you don't want to wear yourself out. I think knowing that I've been playing a lot of golf lately, for this week I took Monday, I was pretty much in bed all day eating candy, and on Tuesday I played 18 holes but I took it really easy, just at night just laying in bed.

Q. What kind of candy?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Peanut butter M & Ms.

Q. New fitness routine?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: What is that?

Q. I mean, how do you go from -- you play a lot in college, but you've never played this much tournament golf.

VIKTOR HOVLAND: We played a decent amount of tournament golf, like especially in the summer because you play amateur golf almost every week. But you're so used to having one practice round and then just ready to go and then play three rounds.

Here you get -- obviously the PGA TOUR is hopefully four rounds and you get there the Monday, for me when I'm not in the pro-ams. It's a full week. Then it's the next week and the week after that, so it is a little different.

Q. Just some thoughts on your former college teammate up on the top of the board there? Did that give you some inspiration today to kind of chase him down a little bit?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Yeah. I mean, not just Matt, but Collin, too, played awesome. He's so consistent, and Matt's got some firepower and he showed that yesterday. I knew it was gettable, like I didn't need them to play well for me to see that. I just needed to play my own game and get a couple putts to fall and I knew I'd be climbing the leaderboard.

Q. We've got a lot of Norwegians up here. May 17th is Independence Day in Norway. What's your favorite tradition?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: It's been a while because I've been here the last few years, so I haven't really gotten to celebrate it back home. Just kind of getting dressed up, hanging with the guys back home and eating a lot of ice cream and hot dogs.

Q. What is that?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Our national independence day.

Q. When was is that?

VIKTOR HOVLAND: Seventeenth of May. But it's a big thing here, I feel like. A lot of people go out and celebrate.